

HB 252 - Support

EXHIBIT 21
DATE 2/16/09
HB 252

As a lesbian student in chemical engineering it infuriates me that some believe my sexual orientation is grounds to fire me on or evict me from my housing. My orientation in no way affects my job performance. My ability to work with others, solve problems, and be productive is independent of my personal life. To be fired for who I love is a form of bigotry that is abominable and unethical. While I believe the vast majority of the LGBT community do not choose their sexual orientation or gender identity, it should not matter in the debate for their human and civil rights. Each person has the right to choose how he or she lives. While some claim sexual orientation is a moral issue, this should be irrelevant in the legislative process. What one chooses to believe is fine, as long as it does not infringe on the rights of others. For example, one can choose to be Muslim or Christian with no fear of any repercussions because there are laws in place to protect religious freedom. If one chooses to be pro-life, once again there are laws in place to protect that individual from discrimination. If I choose to spend the rest of my life with someone of the same sex, there should be laws in place to protect me as well. It is a choice that falls under the same category of any other fundamental human right of choice. Let me emphasize that sexual identity and homosexuality do no harm to anyone (either the direct individuals or the rest of society) thus to legislate personal morals takes out the role of reason and violates others' individual rights.

-Laura Moran
Montana State University
Hamilton, MT

158 Lickotts Rd
Hamilton, MT 59840